## Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 24-25, 63-64, and 68-69, all as shown below.

1-23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a unified user profile for providing to a user or application transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a ~~first business logic component~~ base user class adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, wherein said ~~first business logic component~~ base user class provides a transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database, and further wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;

(b) generating a unified user profile by creating ~~a second business logic component~~ an extended user class to extend the ~~first business logic component~~ base user class such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, transparently retrieved from and updated in, using the extended user class, both the personalization database and an external user database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the external user database;

(c) wherein the unified user profile ~~first business logic component and the second business logic component~~ allows the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of any knowledge of ~~the data's location~~ whether the accessed data is in the personalization database or the external user database;

(d) wherein the extended ~~first business logic component~~ user class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database such that the property set ~~can~~ differentiates multiple

properties that share ~~with~~ a single property name; and further wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties; and

(e) obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended ~~first business logic component~~ user class.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 26, wherein said server is the personalization server.

28. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

29. (Original) A method according to claim 24, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

30-62. (Canceled).

63. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a server, cause the server to perform the steps of:

(a) obtaining a ~~first business logic component~~ base user class adapted to work through the server to access a first database, wherein ~~first business logic component~~ base user class provides a

transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the first database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of naming convention of data in the first database;

(b) generating a unified user profile by creating ~~a second business logic component~~ an extended user class to extend the ~~first business logic component~~ base user class such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, transparently retrieved from and updated in, using the extended user class, both the first database and a second database, wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the second database;

(c) wherein the unified user profile ~~first business logic component and the second business logic component~~ allows the user or application to access data in the first database and the second database independent of any knowledge of ~~the data's location~~ whether the accessed data is in the first database or the second database;

(d) wherein the extended ~~first business logic component~~ user class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in the first database such that the property set ~~can~~ differentiates multiple properties that share ~~with~~ a single property name; and further wherein the extended ~~first business logic component~~ user class utilizes getter and setter properties; and

(e) wherein the medium further causes the server to obtain a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in the first database and the second database.

64. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 63, wherein the medium further causes the server to generate transparent read and write access to the second database through the extended ~~said first business logic component~~ user class.

65-67. (Canceled).

68. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for use in generating a unified user profile for providing transparent access to a personalization database and an external user database, comprising:

at least one processor and memory, the at least one processor and memory implementing:

(a) a ~~first business logic component~~ base user class adapted to work through a personalization server to access said personalization database, wherein said ~~first business logic component~~ base user class provides a transparent interface to a user or application through which implicit and explicit properties can be retrieved from and updated in the personalization database independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the personalization database;

(b) ~~a second business logic component~~ an extended user class that extends the ~~first business logic component~~ base user class such that said implicit and explicit properties can further be, by using methods inherited by the extended user class from the base user class, transparently retrieved from and updated in, using extended user class, both the personalization database and an external user database, wherein the access is carried out independent of any knowledge of the user or application of the naming convention of data in the external user database;

(c) wherein the unified user profile ~~first business logic component and the second business logic component~~ allows the user or application to access data in the personalization database and the external user database independent of any knowledge of ~~the data's location~~ whether the accessed data is in the personalization database or the external user database;

(d) wherein the extended ~~first business logic component~~ base class uses a property set, said property set adapted to give namespace qualifications to implicit and explicit properties of said data in said personalization database such that the property set ~~can~~ differentiates multiple properties that share ~~with~~ a single property name; and further wherein said implicit and explicit properties comprise getter and setter properties; and

(e) wherein the system further comprises a means of obtaining a security realm adapted to allow authentication of data in said personalization database and said external user database.

69. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 68, wherein the system further comprises a means of generating transparent read and write access to said external database through the extended ~~first business logic component~~ user class.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69, wherein the system further comprises a means of configuring a server to provide said read and write access.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said server is the personalization server.

72. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database is selected from the group consisting of legacy databases, corporate databases, and customer databases.

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 68, wherein said external user database contains data selected from the group consisting of authentication information, user lists, group lists, and group membership.

74-76. (Canceled).